

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

Emergency Home and Accessibility Repair Program (EHARP)

Department of Housing and Community Development

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

The goal of EHARP is to cover emergency home repairs to homes of low and moderate income households. The program provides funds to remove urgent, emergency health and safety hazards. It also addresses physical accessibility barriers for low-income Virginians. The maximum assistance is \$4,000.

02 Funding sources

Emergency repairs are State funds; accessibility improvements are funded through a State tax check off fund.

03 Governance

Funds are allocated annually by SFY to an existing network of 28 providers (nonprofits and local government) in non-entitlement areas of the State. A formula allocation is used based on Census data (population, pop below poverty level, land area by square miles) by county. Most providers serve multi-county areas.

Accessibility funds are on an as-needed, as-available basis. Because it is a tax check off, it is not possible to know the exact level of funding annually.

04 Population served

Applicants must meet the income guidelines and have an urgent need for repairs. Total gross household income from all sources cannot exceed 80% of area median income (AMI), adjusted for family size, as currently determined by HUD.

For accessibility repairs, a household member also must have a need for accessibility improvements such as ramps, tub conversions, grab bars and widening doorways.

05 How program works

Applicants apply to local providers. If both the applicant and the project are eligible, the provider gets bids for the work (or in some cases develops a work order for their own crews) and submits a homeowner agreement, estimates and pictures to request a reservation against their allocation or the available Accessibility Repair balance. DHCD reviews and makes a determination. If approved, the local agency completes the work and submits a remittance and after pictures to DHCD for review and payment.

Applications for local agencies to participate as EHARP local administrators are announced and accepted periodically.

06 Program history

The program began around the year 1988.

07 Program highlights

- Since 2002, the program has been consistently funded at \$352,725. As noted by the program administrator, 100% of funds are expended each program year.

- Between 2016 and 2021, EHARP has served approximately 176 households a year with an average annual assistance of \$2,048.